

Friis, John

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**From:** Dina Addorisio [dina.addorisio@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:06 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

I went to a high school where arts were ignored. I was lucky enough that ECA was available to me. I was in the theatre program where the main message that the teachers pressed was "take risks." They gave me the confidence I needed to pursue my dreams, whether that was acting or not. The artists that work at ECA are so full of knowledge and experience that aspiring artists can really benefit from. We are lucky enough that they are there to share their experience. The arts are such an enriching part of any high school curriculum and, as I mentioned before, it's not available to all students. If ECA closes, it means that many students will not have the opportunity for that enrichment, they will not have the privilege of being taken under the wing of a more experienced artist and forged into something great. ECA teachers are like guidance counselors and for me really helped put things in perspective. I have more ambition than I ever had before ECA and I know that the teachers I had helped that. I've seen some great artists come out of ECA, many more talented than I, and I know ECA gave them all a direction and the conviction to follow their dreams. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Dina Addorisio  
ECA, Theatre '07  
University of Connecticut, Communications '11